Docket No.: 052363-0030 PATENT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Customer Number: 20277

Katsumi OKAMURA, et al.

Confirmation Number: 6234

Application No.: 10/562,485

Group Art Unit: 1794

Filed: December 27, 2005

Examiner: TURNER, ARCHENE A

For: SURFACE-COATED HIGH HARDNESS MATERIAL FOR TOOL

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2008, wherein a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set to expire on December 29, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks